

most of the supply for this market coming from Tomales Bay, and are sold at moderate rates.

The edible mussel, *Mytilus edulis* Linn., is also to be found in the markets, though in small quantities, and apparently it is not in very great demand. Most of the specimens are of the small, smooth, dark purple variety, and average about two inches in length. They live in the bay, and attach themselves in great numbers to the piling of the wharves and similar stable objects to which they may fasten their strong byssus of horny threads. Along the coast outside of the bay, the larger mussel, *Mytilus Californianus* Conr., lives in great numbers, attached to the shaggy rocks which border the ocean, and sometimes grows to the length of eight or ten inches. This species is also edible, and the orange colored flesh of hot mussels, roasted in a fire of drift-wood, and seasoned with the sauce of sea-breeze hunger, has a delicious flavor which is not soon forgotten.

Occasionally you may find one or two other mollusks in the markets, but seldom. I have seen the large *Cardium corbis* Mart., and the Chinese eat the Squid, while the Frenchmen sometimes secures on the sly a big Helix; but these five species, two oysters, two clams and a mussel, are all that are commonly exposed for sale.

A NEW SPECIES OF LIMPET FROM JAPAN.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

Patella (*Helcioniscus*) *Stearnsii*, N. Sp.

This is a form of *Patella* resembling outside the *P. exarata* Nutt., of the Sandwich Islands. It is the size of that species but usually somewhat more elevated. Color blackish-brown, with rays of white or greenish; dull and lusterless. Outside sculptured with about 50-56 strong, more or less nodose riblets, separated by deeply cut furrows. Interior bluish-white, but stained darker in places by the color of the outside, showing through; *the area inside the muscle-impression of a rich chestnut-brown color.* Around the margin are alternate blotches of blackish-brown and white, the blackish usually predominating; edge scalloped. The ribbing of the outside is not nearly so plainly indicated in the interior as in *P. exarata*, and in the space between the muscle-impression and the more vividly colored marginal border, *very fine, interrupted concentric wrinkles may*

be seen. This is a character not shown by *P. exarata*. The interior as a whole is somewhat iridescent.

Alt. 21, length 38, breadth 29 mill. Another specimen measures, alt. 18, length 41, breadth 31½ mill.

Specimens were procured by Mr. Frederick Stearns of Detroit, Michigan, on the coast of Japan, Kii Province.

It is possibly the form referred to by Dunker as *P. exarata*. From that species it may be distinguished by many characters, such as coloration, that species having black ribs on a whitish ground, and a milky-white interior, whilst *Stearnsii* has blackish rays, covering several ribs and their interstices, and a chestnut-brown area inside the muscle-attachment. The peculiar sculpture of the inside is also of itself diagnostic. Dunker (Index Moll. Maris Japonici, p. 157) also mentions *Patella mazatlanica* Gray in connection with his "*exarata*." This shell is really a native of Chili, not Mazatlan! Dr. Ruschenberger collected specimens at Concepcion, which correspond *exactly* with Gray's figures (Beechey's Voy., Zool., pl. 39, fig. 12.) It is a more straightly conical form than *P. exarata*, differently colored outside, and having a small chestnut-brown area inside the muscle-impression; this area being much smaller than in *P. Stearnsii*, which also differs from it in the sculpture of the interior described above. Gray called his species "*mazatlanica*."

Figures of *P. Stearnsii* will be given in Mr. Stearns' catalogue of the shells collected by him during his travels in Japan, now in press.

MOLLUSCA OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL, PHILADELPHIA.

The project of establishing a great National Collection of United States Mollusca, through the co-operation of members of the American Association of Conchologists, has been received with such favor, that it is but a question of time when the collection will be one of the finest special exhibits in the world. The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, (through its Conchological Conservator) has offered facilities for the permanent exhibition and preservation of the collection, and already a goodly number of fine shells has been received and mounted.

With the preparation and mounting of the specimens, comes the question of correctly naming them; and herein is presented the most